



Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 903075	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP2003/004301	International filing date (day/month/year) 03 April 2003 (03.04.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 11 June 2002 (11.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B29D 29/00, B29C 43/04, 59/02, D21F 3/00		
Applicant YAMAUCHI CORPORATION		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>2</u> sheets.</p> 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand 09 September 2003 (09.09.2003)	Date of completion of this report 04 June 2004 (04.06.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/004301

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*** the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____ 1-10 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages 1-8 _____, filed with the letter of 06 February 2004 (06.02.2004)

 the drawings:

pages _____ 1-4 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is: the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).**3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:** contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.**4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:** the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____**5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).****

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- the entire international application.
 claims Nos. 6, 7, 8

because:

- the said international application, or the said claims Nos. _____ relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

- the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. _____ are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

- the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

- no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 6, 7, 8.

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

- the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
 the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	5	YES
	Claims	1-4	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP, 2002-331579, A (Bridgestone Corp.), 19 November, 2002 (19.11.02), the claims, [0030]

Document 2: JP, 11-79456, A (Gunze Ltd.), 23 March, 1999 (23.03.99), the claims, [0030]

Document 3: JP, 8-300507, A (Toyo Tire and Rubber Co., Ltd.), 19 November, 1996 (19.11.96), the claims, [0012], [0031]

Claims 1-4

The subject matters of claims 1-4 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3 cited in the ISR.

The constitution described in claims 1 and 3 in which “an endlessly formed cylindrical elastic belt made of an elastic material is thermally pressed on its outer circumferential surface and/or inner circumferential surface, for smoothing the circumferential surface(s)” is disclosed in document 1 (the claims), document 2 (claim 8) and document 3 (the claims). It would have been easy to use the belt as an elastic belt for papermaking.

The constitution as the subject matter of claim 2 in which “the inner and outer circumferential surfaces of a belt have a surface roughness of 20 µm (Rz) or less” is considered to be suggested in document 1, considering the description that “the surface of a belt made of a resin can be finished to be homogeneous and highly precise” in document 1 ([0047]). Furthermore, this constitution is considered to be suggested in document 3, considering the description that “if a core mirror-finished on the surface is used, the complicity of grinding step can be avoided ...” in document 3 ([0031]).

These constitutions could have been easily used in an elastic belt for papermaking.

Document 1 or 2 does not describe the particular heating conditions of the thermal press described in claim 4, but they are considered to be a mere matter of design variation that a person skilled in the art could have, as required, decided for adaptation to, for example, the particular material and size of the elastic belt. So, a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of the subject matter of claim 4 from document 1 or 2.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of : V.2

Claim 5

The subject matter of claim 5 is neither described in any of the documents cited in the ISR nor obvious to a person skilled in the art.